

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,813,009.

Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al.

Claims 4 and 8 were not examined due to improper multiple dependency.

The multiple dependencies have been removed.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 (similarly in claims 5, 9, and 11) features a “a linkage means” that links a document management means and an EDI means and acquires sending information of EDI data from the EDI means and registers the sending information in the version control information of the relevant transaction document when the accumulated transaction document and the particular version are selected and attached to the EDI data, whereby the EDI data is sent by the EDI means. This processing by the “linkage means” is a two-way process which does not read on the Johnson et al. “filtering process.” The “filtering process” described by Johnson et al. is a one-way process and is completely different from the present invention. For at least this reason, the Section 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

The present invention as recited in claim 2 (similarly in claims 6 and 10) further defines the “linkage means” of claim 1 as comprising a means which discerns a relevant transaction of a transaction document attached to EDI data and, when the transaction document is a document in an ongoing transaction, accumulates the attached document as the latest version. When the transaction document is a document in a new transaction, it accumulates the attached document as a first version and registers receiving information in the version control information. It is earnestly asserted that this specific structure is not shown in the Johnson et al. reference.

The present invention as recited in claim 3 (similarly in claim 7) further defines the “linkage means” of claim 1 as deleting the sending information of the EDI data from the version control information when a sending error occurs or when sending is disabled. That is,

when the sending error occurs, the transaction document data is not abandoned, but rather is the sending information is deleted from the version information of the transaction document data so that the consistency between the version of the transaction document and the sending history can be properly maintained. The "filter means" described by Johnson et al. does not possess the foregoing specific elements of this aspect of the present invention.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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